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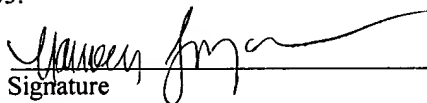
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kirwan, et al.
Serial No.: 09/744,698
Confirmation No.: 3328
Filed: May 14, 2001
For: UNIVERSAL MODULAR SURGICAL APPLICATOR
SYSTEMS

Examiner: Roz Maiorino
Art Unit: 3763

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document is being placed in the United States mail with first-class postage attached, addressed to **MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 2 day of May, 2005.


Signature

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request for consideration in view of the following remarks.

The Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 6.